connected to a network, it can also be considered a "host". Appropriate amendment of the claims in this regard would be agreeable if the Examiner could consider all of the claims now presented. A summary of each of the now pending independent claims is provided below for the convenience of the Examiner and hopefully leading to the Examiner's decision to examine all of the pending claims together.

In this regard, it is respectfully noted that at least claim 1 is generic to all of the remaining claims 2-24 (as will be explained below). Accordingly, since this is a species-type restriction requirement, if a generic claim or claims is found to be allowable, then, as the Examiner has already noted, the applicant is entitled to an allowance of all claims directed to all of the patentably distinct species.

Claim 1 – A computer/network interface device having two external hardware interfaces, one receiving data in a first format, the other sending data in a second format, one of those hardware interfaces being connectable to a computer, with a processor between the two interfaces which takes data from a first interface, performs a cryptographic process on the data and sends it onwards to the second interface only.

Claim 8 is very similar to claim 1 (as the Examiner already appreciates).

Claim 9 is a method claim which corresponds to device claim 1. It seems illogical for it to belong to a different species than claim 1.

Claim 12 is a method claim which is similar to device claim 8 (which the Examiner acknowledges is similar to claim 1). Claim 12 introduces the additional

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limitation that one of the hardware interfaces is actually connected to a host computer system.

Claim 13 is also similar to claim 1, but limits the "first zone data format" to that used by the host (i.e., computer), and the "second zone data format" to a network data format.

Claim 19 is similar to claim 8 but it does not explicitly require the first and second hardware ports to be disposed in the device.

Claim 20 is similar to claim 8, but recites a 'port' rather than an 'interface', and makes it clear that the first zone is a computer, the second zone is a network, and that the ports are actually connected to external hardware.

Claim 23 is similar to claim 12, but recites a 'port' rather than an 'interface', and that data is received via external hardware connected to a first external hardware port, and that external hardware is connected to the second hardware port.

Claim 24 is similar to claim 1 but recites that the device has a housing with an external plug connector that can physically be plugged into a computer and receive data using an internal data format used by the computer. Claim 24 recites the second hardware interface as an external plug connector on the apparatus housing.

It is clear that claim 1 is generic to all these claims, and hence to all three species. Each of claims 2 to 24 is a more limited version of what is claimed in claim 1. The Examiner's identification of species confirms this: Species I) is described as a Network
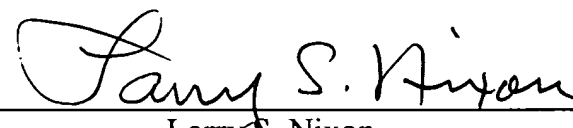
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Interface Card; Species III) is described as a Network Interface Card which plugs into a

host port and conforms to the PCI standard – surely that is just a subset of Species I).

Accordingly, an early and favorable action allowing all claims 1-24 is respectfully

solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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